

[12 MARCH, 2001] RAJYA SABHA

Concern for cultivation of genetically engineered cotton

1612. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that former Director of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, at a press meet organized by the Peoples Science Congress on Food and Agriculture, expressed concern at Karnataka Governments decision to permit cultivation of genetically engineered cotton in the State, as reported in the Economic Times of 3rd January, 2001, under the caption: Biologists criticise Karnataka cotton treats; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the safety measures proposed to be taken in the cultivation of cotton in cotton growing States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The statement is purportedly made by one of the former Directors of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad in his individual capacity, CCMB does not associate itself with it.

Genetic mapping of bio-diversity and human genome project

†1613. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Scientists are lagging behind in genetic mapping of bio-diversity and human genome projects of India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India would suffer huge economic losses as a result of having been lagged behind in these fields;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when India would complete its projects in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.